conservation in the belt forming part of the tiger habitat mentioned above.

Environmental Clearance for Development Projects

656. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased **to** state:

(a) the number, location and details of development projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost and physical benefits;

(c) whether any radical changes are needed in the Central Legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken in this regard; and

(f) by when those projects would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A total of 110 development projects in the sectors of Industry, Mining, River Valley, Thermal Power and Infrastructure are awaiting environmental clearance as on 15th November, 2001. A state-wise list of these projects indicating their location, estimated cost and benefits is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 194, Annexure No. 8]

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of Impact Assessment Notification of January, 1994 and its amendments, environmental clearance is mandatory for 30 categories of development projects. Presently, there is no proposal regarding radical changes in Central Legislation for appraisal of development projects.

(f) Decision on environmental clearance of development projects is usually taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

Deaths due to pollution

1657. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(d) whether it is a fact that about ten lakh people die every year due to degradation of environment, urban air pollution, shortage of clean water and the increasing pollution caused by toxic and chemical substances and wastes etc. emitted from the industrial factories;

(e) if so, the State-wise/metro-wise details thereof;

(f) whether the scientists have expressed apprehensions about the likely major impact of bombardment on Taliban on the Indian environment;

(a) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There have been some reports on premature deaths due to pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these figures. No mortality data attributable to pollution is available.

(c) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Processed Food Authority

658. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Processed Food Authority of India to establish standards for food in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of agencies exist already to ensure the standard and quality of food in the country; and

(d) if so, the necessity of setting up a new authority for the purpose?